

American Outlook

**American Citizen Services
United States Mission, Turkey
Summer 2010 Newsletter**

Featured in this quarter's issue:

- *Ambassador James Jeffrey Says Farewell to Turkey*
- *90 Day Turkish Visa a Non-Issue*
- *New Schedule of Consular Fees*
- *Frequent Travelers and the 52 Page Passport Option*
- *Updated Country Information Sheet for Turkey*
- *New U.S. Law Makes Absentee Voting Easier for Overseas Americans*
- *Federal Voting Assistance Program Now on Facebook*
- *Security: Worldwide Caution*
- *Upcoming Holidays and ACS Office Closures*
- *Our Contact Info*



AMBASSADOR JAMES JEFFREY SAYS FAREWELL TO TURKEY

We know that Americans and Turks in 1783 and 1923 ended their struggles for independence and chose democracy as the form of government for their new nations. As a result, I believe Americans and Turks share a similar historic spirit. As we jointly face many threats in these difficult and dangerous times, it is very important to keep that spirit in mind.

When my wife Gudrun and I first became involved with Turkey 28 years ago, Turkey was a very important country on the road to development. But today, our NATO ally Turkey is one of the most advanced global leaders. To paraphrase President Obama, we see Turkey as a country of huge strategic importance that has always been at the crossroads of East and West. Its economy is growing significantly and as a democracy and a predominantly Muslim country, it plays a critical role in the region. We are all proud of Turkey's accomplishments and know that US-Turkey relations are much broader, much more important, and much deeper than most international relationships today.

As I depart Turkey for the last time, I am pleased to have had an opportunity to make a contribution for stability and peace in this region. I've had an exciting two years as the U.S. Ambassador and I thank all the people of Turkey who have opened their homes and their hearts to us during this time and over the course of our four postings to Turkey. I urge you to show the same warmth to my successor.

A journalist recently asked me what my message might be to the Turkish people as I leave this country. My answer was simple: don't worry about Turkey. It is one of the great winners of the late 20th and early 21st centuries.

My advice is to build on that foundation and continue to embrace the outside world.

Gorusmek Uzere!



90 DAY TURKISH VISA A NON-ISSUE

A new requirement of Turkish immigration which went into effect on 14 July was suspended on 23 July. There has been some confusion as a result. The Turkish requirement that American citizens and those of 62 other countries not remain more than 90 cumulative days out of 180 days on tourist visas without residency permits is not currently being implemented. The situation is as it was before July. No indication has been provided as to when the contemplated new policy might take effect.



NEW SCHEDULE OF CONSULAR FEES

A new Schedule of Fees for Consular Services including fees for passports,

immigrant visas and other consular services, took effect on July 13, 2010. The revised fees cover actual operating expenses for the 301 overseas consular posts, 23 domestic passport agencies and other centers that provide consular services to U.S. and foreign citizens.

The new fees are based on the true cost of providing consular services, which the Department recovers through the collection of fees. Not all fees increased.

A full list of adjusted fees may be viewed at

http://www.travel.state.gov/news/news_5078.html



FREQUENT TRAVELERS AND THE 52 PAGE PASSPORT OPTION

Adding pages to your U.S. passport now costs \$82. Instead, if you are a frequent traveler you may want to consider getting a 52 page passport when you renew your U.S. passport and that costs nothing extra.



UPDATED COUNTRY SPECIFIC INFORMATION SHEET FOR TURKEY

Take a look at the updated Country Specific Information sheet for Turkey:
http://www.travel.state.gov/travel/cis_pa_tw/cis/cis_1046.html



NEW U.S. LAW MAKES VOTING EASIER FOR AMERICANS ABROAD

This coming November, U.S. voters will elect 39 U.S. Senators and the entire House of Representatives. For overseas voters, the absentee voting process will be much easier, thanks in large part to a new law - the Military and Overseas Voter Empowerment (MOVE) Act - which Congress enacted last year.

To vote absentee, U.S. citizens living overseas must be registered to vote and must request an absentee ballot. Accomplish either task by completing a Federally-issued combination voter

registration application and absentee ballot request form known as the Federal Post Card Application, or FPCA. This form, along with State-by-State instructions, is available on the Federal Voting Assistance Program website at www.fvap.gov, or from the U.S. Embassy and Consulates in Turkey.

The new law gives U.S. citizens overseas the ability to request and receive absentee ballots electronically. Just send in a new FPCA with your email and/or complete fax number clearly written out. U.S. citizens who have changed their names, addresses, or email addresses, or who are infrequent voters, should also submit a new FPCA.

Be sure to follow your State's instructions carefully when completing the form and sending it to local election officials in the United States. Both the FVAP website and the Overseas Vote Foundation website, <https://www.overseasvotefoundation.org/> have web sites that assist you in completing and addressing the FPCA.

If you do not receive your absentee ballot after sending in your FPCA within a reasonable time period, notify your local election officials by phone or email. You can also use the Federal Write-in Absentee Ballot (FWAB) as a back-up emergency ballot. Check www.FVAP.gov



FEDERAL VOTING ASSISTANCE PROGRAM NOW ON FACEBOOK

You can follow the Federal Voting Assistance Program on Facebook. Click this link:
<http://www.facebook.com/#!/DoDFVAP?ref=ts> or just search for the Federal Voting Assistance Program.

SECURITY- WORLDWIDE CAUTION

The Department of State has issued a Worldwide Caution to update information on the continuing threat of terrorist actions and violence against U.S. citizens and interests throughout the world which can be found at
http://www.travel.state.gov/travel/cis_pa_tw/pa/pa_4787.html



UPCOMING HOLIDAYS

The Embassy will be closed on the following American and Turkish holidays:

August 30 (Mon) – Victory Day (Turkey)

September 6 (Mon) – Labor Day (U.S.)
September 8-11 (Wed-Sat) – Ramadan Holiday (Turkey)
(from 13:00 on 09/08, Wednesday)
October 11 (Thu) Veterans Day (U.S.)
October 28-29 (Thu-Fri) – Turkish Independence Day (Turkey)
(from 13:00 on 10/28, Thursday)



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